In the Claims:

Please amend claims 28, 29, 31, 32, 35, and 38 as follows:

Claims 1 to 26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) A method of precision pressing a glass body to form an optical component of high quality, said method consisting of the steps of:

a) providing a press mold comprising an upper mold part, a lower mold part and, optionally, a ring;

b) receiving a glass body in the press mold so that the glass body is between the upper mold part and the lower mold part;

c) applying a voltage across the glass body received in the press mold in step b);

d) during the applying of the voltage across the glass body in step c), heating the press mold continuously to a press mold temperature above a sticking temperature (T_0) and until a glass body temperature of said glass body reaches said press mold temperature, wherein said sticking temperature (T_0) is the glass body temperature at which the glass body would adhere to the press mold if said voltage were not applied across the glass body during step c);

e) after said glass body temperature reaches said press mold temperature above the sticking temperature (T_0) and during the applying of the voltage across the glass body, in a first press stage maintaining said press mold temperature constant and at the same time applying a pressure to said glass body and

maintaining said pressure at a constant maximum value during said first press stage;

f) in a second press stage following said first press stage simultaneously continuously decreasing said pressure applied to said glass body and reducing said press mold temperature;

g) in a third press stage following said second press stage maintaining said pressure applied to said glass body constant at a pressure value reached at an end of said second press stage and maintaining said press mold temperature constant at a temperature value reached at an end of said second press stage;

h) in a fourth press stage following said third press stage simultaneously lowering said press mold temperature and lowering said pressure applied to said glass body; and then

i) removing the glass body from said press mold to thus obtain the optical component, wherein said optical component has deviations from predetermined dimensions that are smaller than 100 nm.

28. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 27, wherein said voltage is ~~comprises~~ a D.C. voltage.

29. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 27, wherein said voltage [[is]] comprises an A.C. voltage.

30. (previously presented) A method of precision pressing a glass body to form an optical component of high quality, said method consisting of the steps of:

a) providing a press mold comprising an upper mold part, a lower mold part and, optionally, a ring;

b) receiving a glass body in the press mold so that the glass body is between the upper mold part and the lower mold part;

c) applying a voltage across the glass body received in the press mold in step b);

d) during the applying of the voltage across the glass body in step c), heating the press mold continuously to a press mold temperature above a sticking temperature (T_0) and until a glass body temperature of said glass body reaches said press mold temperature, wherein said sticking temperature (T_0) is the glass body temperature at which the glass body would adhere to the press mold if said voltage were not applied across the glass body during step c);

e) after said glass body temperature reaches said press mold temperature above the sticking temperature (T_0) and during the applying of the voltage across the glass body, rapidly cooling the press mold to reduce said press mold temperature;

f) after the cooling of step e) in a first press stage maintaining said press mold temperature constant and at the same time applying a pressure to the glass body and maintaining said pressure applied to the glass body at a constant maximum value during said first press stage;

g) in a second press stage following said first press stage simultaneously continuously decreasing said pressure applied to said glass body and reducing said press mold temperature;

h) in a third press stage following said second press stage maintaining said pressure applied to said glass body constant at a pressure value reached at an end of said second press stage and maintaining said press mold temperature constant at a temperature value reached at an end of said second press stage;

i) in a fourth press stage following said third press stage simultaneously lowering said press mold temperature and lowering said pressure applied to said glass body; and then

j) removing the glass body from said press mold to thus obtain the optical component, wherein said optical component has deviations from predetermined dimensions that are smaller than 100 nm.

31. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 30, wherein said voltage is ~~comprises~~ a D.C. voltage.

32. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 30, wherein said voltage [[is]] comprises an alternating voltage.

33. (previously presented) A method of precision pressing a glass body to form an optical component of high quality, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a press mold comprising an upper mold part, a lower mold part and, optionally, a ring;

b) receiving a glass body in the press mold so that the glass body is between the upper mold part and the lower mold part;

c) applying a voltage across the glass body received in the press mold in step b);

d) during the applying of the voltage across the glass body in step c), heating the press mold continuously to a press mold temperature above a sticking temperature (T_0) and until a glass body temperature of said glass body reaches said press mold temperature, wherein said sticking temperature (T_0) is the glass body temperature at which the glass body would adhere to the press mold if said voltage were not applied across the glass body during step c); and

e) after said glass body temperature reaches said press mold temperature above the sticking temperature (T_0) and during the applying of the voltage across the glass body, in a first time interval maintaining said press mold temperature constant and at the same time applying a pressure to said glass body and maintaining said pressure at a constant maximum value during said first press stage.

34. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 33, further comprising continuously decreasing said pressure applied to said glass body and at the same time reducing said press mold temperature in a second time interval after maintaining said press mold temperature and said pressure constant during said

first time interval.

35. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 33, wherein said voltage is ~~comprises~~ a D.C. voltage.

36. (previously presented) A method of precision pressing a glass body to form an optical component of high quality, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a press mold comprising an upper mold part, a lower mold part and, optionally, a ring;

b) receiving a glass body in the press mold so that the glass body is between the upper mold part and the lower mold part;

c) applying a voltage across the glass body received in the press mold in step b);

d) during the applying of the voltage across the glass body in step c), heating the press mold continuously to a press mold temperature above a sticking temperature (T_0) and until a glass body temperature of said glass body reaches said press mold temperature, wherein said sticking temperature (T_0) is the glass body temperature at which the glass body would adhere to the press mold if said voltage were not applied across the glass body during step c);

e) after said glass body temperature reaches said press mold temperature above the sticking temperature (T_0) and during the applying of the voltage across the glass body, rapidly cooling the press mold to reduce said press mold temperature; and

f) after step e), in a first time interval maintaining said press mold temperature constant and at the same time applying a pressure to the glass body and maintaining said pressure applied to the glass body at a constant maximum value during said first press stage.

37. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 36, further comprising continuously decreasing said pressure applied to said glass body and at the same time reducing said press mold temperature in a second time interval after maintaining said press mold temperature and said pressure constant during said first time interval.

38. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 36, wherein said voltage is ~~comprises~~ a D.C. voltage.